

Regular Council Meeting
January 13, 2004

Mayor Marse called to order the regular scheduled meeting of January 13, 2004.

Councilman Helton gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Present: Mayor J.M. Marse, Council members Scott Brannon, Janice McLean, Earl King and Mike Helton were present. Councilwoman Jean Arrant was absent. Also present: City Clerk Diane Riley and City Attorney Clayton Adkinson.

Councilman Brannon motioned to accept the minutes of 12/9/03 as presented. Councilman Helton 2nd the motion, motion carried, 4-0.

Mayor Marse reported to the Council that he and Dewey Wilson with Regional Utilities went to water management on Monday. The business of the meeting was the consumptive use permit for Freeport with an increase request to supply Regional Utilities. Water management will not issue the request without a modeling and will not accept Regional' modeling. Water management is ready to issue Regional Utilities permit. Mr. Wilson stated that once his permit was issued that he would assist Freeport in doing the modeling and release his allocation to Freeport. Nothing is in writing. Mayor feels there is a problem at water management. It was expressed that Freeport needs to go north for new well sites. After a lengthy discussion the Mayor asked if Attorney Adkinson could go to Mr. Wilson and talk with him about this situation. The Council agreed and will wait on the response. Councilman King asked Attorney Adkinson to see if Mr. Wilson would come and talk with the Council. Mayor Marse also noted that he went to a Kiwanis Club event and bragged about the City of Freeport.

Old Business:

Charles Peters submitted the engineers report in summary form to the Council. The Council liked this form of information. Councilman Brannon addressed item 4 under new business at this time. He stated that after meeting with Charles and Robert Fawcett the sewer plant upgrade looks great and is in line. Discussion of the cost was address and all appears okay. The City is trying to secure property for a in town pump station. Councilman Brannon announced he was at the WCBCC meeting this afternoon and Mr. Wilson is putting a spray field on property known as the 3 ½ section of the old First American Farms property. Brannon noted that Mr. Wilson offered for the City to joint venture into this project by laying pipe within the same ditch down hwy. 331 and use the same spray field. Details will be addressed at a later date. Councilman King asked Charles if the Portland water project was complete. Charles stated that everything is on line and is being used. There is a minor punch list being addressed now. Councilman Brannon stated that he wanted everyone to know about the Owl's Head development meetings next week, and wanted to publicly announce the opportunity for everyone to go be part of them. Mayor Marse announced that Danny Garland' retirement was on Thursday, January 29 @ 11:30 am.

Paul Miller was unavailable tonight, yet submitted an overview of what happening in the planning area of the City. The only item unknown by the City was the Classic Cookie warehouse distribution building in the Industrial Park.

New Business:

Councilman King motioned to hire Jones & Phillips as the City's consultants for the CBDG programs and authorize the firm to submit applications in behalf of the City. The motion was 2nd by Councilman Brannon, motion carried, 4-0.

Councilman King motioned to adopt resolution 04-01 for Phase II-Sidewalk grant with FDOT. The motion was 2nd by Councilman Helton, motion carried, 4-0.

City Attorney Adkinson stated he received a call from Mike Underwood with the County about the code enforcement agreement we have with the county. Adkinson did not understand the roll of the code enforcement board. The Council needs to be

the code enforcement board. We need to address their roll in the process. Adkinson thinks that we need to use their code enforcers, but allow the City to interpret the code. Jack Rhodes stated that he does not think by statue the Council is allowed to set as the code enforcement board. The County needs to stay with administrating the nuisance ordinance, and the City administers the development code enforcement. Attorney Adkinson is going to see if legally the Council can act as the planning board.

James Odom presented mandated rules for firefighters handed down by the state fire marshal. All volunteers must have a training level of at least a level 1. Each year the City sends 2 people to the school. He thinks compliance will be in forced within the next two years. He presented an annual report of the fire department. Firefighter of the year is Richard Withrow. Councilman Brannon asked about the Chief and him meeting with the Council. Councilwoman McLean stated that the department is going to do some rearranging within the department. Mr. Odom requested that the Council move forward in hiring part time employees due to the equipment upkeep and needed labor. Councilwoman McLean stated they would be doing that.

Councilman King motioned to place Jake Hollington and Allen Thomas on permanent employee status. Robert Fawcett wrote the Council a letter on the performance of Allen Thomas and commended him for his abilities. David Fannin verbally expressed Jake Hollington’s abilities as being very good. Councilman Helton 2nd the motion to place both on permanent status, motion carried, 4-0.

Robin Haynes was voted as employee of the 4th quarter of 2003.

Councilman Brannon motioned to pay all bills in order, Councilman Helton 2nd the motion, it carried, 4-0. The bill on the cost of analyzing for North Bay Water System was questioned and needs to be looked at before sending that payment.

Councilman King questioned if he needed a bid on buying machinery for the City, if we specify that it must be under state contract. Attorney Adkinson stated that the City has never adopted a bidding ordinance requiring us to bid out. Councilman King can move forward on purchasing equipment.

With no other business, Councilman Helton motioned to adjourn at 8:57 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Diane Riley, City Clerk

Janice McLean, President of Council